APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 3164 asked by Sri K. C. Gopalan Unni at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly, held on 28th February 1956, page 129 supra.]

A note explaining the proposals for amelioration of conditions of the Tribes in Attappady.

The Irulars who form a major portion of the population of Attappady are not scheduled tribes. However they are one of the communities eligible for the following educational concessions given by the Harijan Welfare Department :—

(1) Scholarships (residential and non-residential).

(2) Payment of examination fees.

(3) Boarding grants in private hostels.

(4) Admission as free boarders in the Government hostels.

The Government of India are giving aid for schemes for certain specified Backward Classes. Irulars are not one of these classes. Schemes for the benefit of this community were however included in the proposals sent to the Government of India and grants obtained from them for implementation of schemes.

A sum of Rs. 15,000 was sanctioned during 1954–55 for providing drinking water wells for Irulars, Adiyans and Kurichans of Malabar district. 50 per cent of the expenditure on the scheme was given as grant by the Government of India. Three wells are being sunk in Attappady under this scheme. However, much progress could not be achieved in 1954–55 in the matter of sinking wells due to difficulty in getting workmen.

In the proposals for 1955–56 for the welfare of specified Backward Classes forwarded to the Government of India a scheme for provision of drinking water wells for the tribes in Malabar including Irulars of Attappady was included. The cost of the scheme is Rs. 49,500. The Government of India have since sanctioned a grant of Rs. 24,750 for this scheme.

It may also be mentioned that since 1952 the question of development of the Attappady valley has been under the consideration of the Government. The Government have been of the view that in order to develop the area concrete proposals should be formulated for the improvement of communications, anti-malarial

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operations, appointment of a special revenue staff, establishment of a hospital and dispensary, opening of a police station, construction of rest-houses, construction of quarters for the staff, appointment of an Agricultural Demonstrator with the usual agricultural depot and a small demonstration farm organization of multi-purpose co-operative societies and opening of schools, etc. As a first step for the development of the area the Government have decided that the area should be surveyed. They have accordingly sanctioned in June 1955 the employment of a preliminary survey staff and special revenue staff. Construction of quarters for the special revenue staff has also been sanctioned. The other proposals will be taken up for consideration after completion of the survey.

A scheme for the development of Attappady valley at a cost of Rs. 13·5 lakhs and a scheme for the colonization of Irulars and other Backward Classes in one-fourth of the valley at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs have been included in the Second Five-Year Plan.

2-JUL 1956
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